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THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE RE-OPENS HOTCATT

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The Hotel, Catering and Tourism Training School (HOTCATT), which was closed down six years ago, has been re-opened to continue to equip students with the necessary skills within the tourism, hospitality and the catering sector.

To that effect, new enrollments for training will focus on customer service, front desk operations, tour guides, catering courses with professional chefs, grooming skills for front-line operators and concierge services, among others.

In an address, the Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Catherine Abelema Afeku, expressed concern about the dwindling budgetary allocations and the less attention that had been paid, over the years, to skills development in the hospitality sector.

Mrs. Afeku said when the Akufo-Addo administration took office in 2017, one of the priority areas emphasized in the policy and strategy for the skills development in the hospitality sector was to bring excellence in service delivery at all establishments in the country.

She therefore, urged the members of the Board of HOTCATT and the relevant stakeholders to develop a Legislative Instrument (LI) which would help formulate policies that would boost the operational activities of the Institute.

She said all establishments who paid their 1% levy would be encouraged to enroll their staff for refresher courses at a discount at the facility aimed at encouraging others who are not registered with the Ghana Tourist Authority (GTA) to do so and enjoy the benefits.

Mrs Vida Sunkwa-Mills, chairperson for the occasion, noted that, over the years, HOTCATT had contributed tremendously towards the tourism and hospitality in the country.

She expressed the hope that, with the re-opening of the institute, its operations would meet the expectations of the industry.

HOTCATT was established in 1991 to serve as a leading professional skills training institute on the African Continent. It was designed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to train all categories and levels of personnel employed to work in Hotels, Catering Institutes and the Travel and Tour Operations, HOTCATT was initially joint-funded by the Government of Ghana (GoG) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with technical assistance from the ILO.

It was then envisaged that after a period of 21 months, HOTCATT would develop capacity building to provide training on continuous and permanent basis as well as to develop qualified manpower for the tourism industry.

Source: ISD (Solace Amankwa & Rebecca Avusu)

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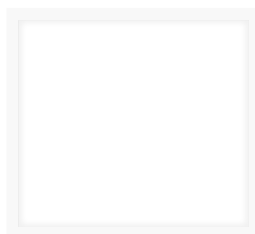
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